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This summer will go down as one of the hottest, driest ever in Boston

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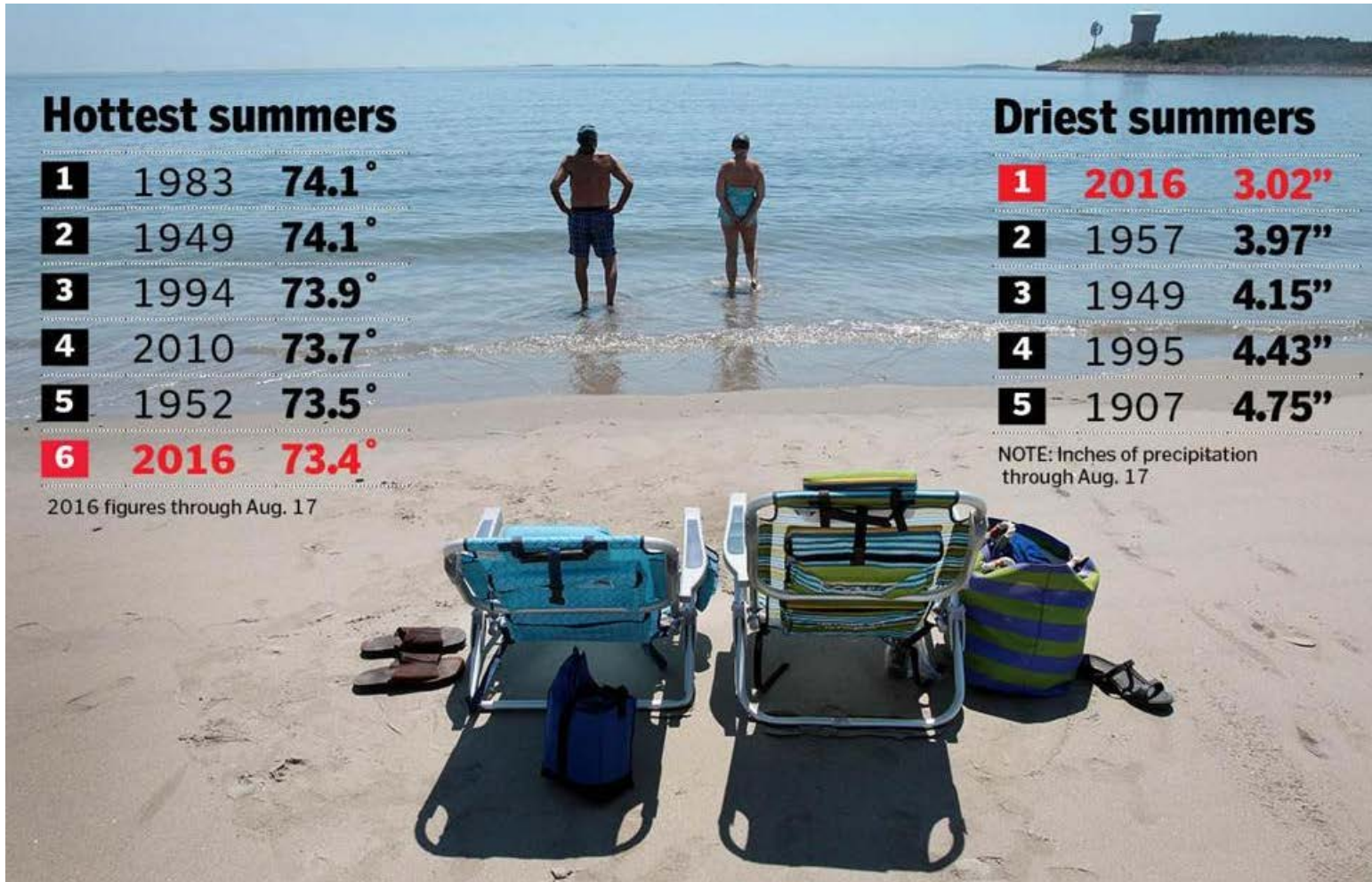
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GLOBE STAFF

By **Matt Rocheleau**

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Remember that six-day heat wave in July? Well, it hasn't gotten much cooler since.

And the summer appears on course to being one of the hottest and driest ever in Boston.

There are still two weeks left until the end of meteorological summer, which runs from June through August. But the average daily temperature for the season was 73.4 degrees through Wednesday.

That would rank as the sixth-warmest summer the city has endured since recordkeeping began in 1872.

And the forecast calls for plenty more warmth through the end of this month.

Humidity to stay away on Thursday

Temperatures will be in the mid-80s, but with low humidity.

In fact, if [the current forecast](#) for the next 14 days holds true, the average daily temperature for the summer would edge upward to 73.6 degrees, which would make it the fifth warmest summer.

The hottest Boston summer, in terms of average daily temperature, was 74.1 degrees, a mark reached in both 1949 and 1983.

The average temperature is calculated by adding the daily high and the daily low and dividing by two.

The hottest stretch this year came in late July, when the high temperature measured at Logan International Airport in Boston reached 90 or more from July 21 through 26. That was part of a 16-day stretch that included 11 days when the temperature reached 90 or more. Other parts of the state may well have been even hotter than the airport on Boston Harbor.

It's also been extremely dry so far this summer.

The driest summer on record was in 1957, when only 3.97 inches of rain fell in Boston.

The total rainfall this summer was even lower through Wednesday at just 3.02 inches of rain.

Massachusetts is experiencing its worst drought in more than a decade, [the Globe reported a week ago](#).

We have plenty of company when it comes to unusually hot weather.

July went down as the warmest month the world has collectively experienced in the 136 years scientists have been tracking global temperatures. And it marked the 10th straight month of record warmth, putting 2016 on track to be the hottest year ever recorded globally, [the Globe reported this week](#).

Climate specialists said the pattern is an unmistakable sign of human-caused global warming.

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